

January 29, 2020

Re: Docket RM2017-3

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Sasa Olessi Montaño

Chief Executive Officer

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is in reference to the postage increase currently under consideration, which will impact mail costs for fundraising efforts – particularly for non-profit organizations like ours.

Meals on Wheels of Mercer County (MOWMC) is a comprehensive nutrition program committed to providing nutritious meals and related services which are designed to promote the independence, dignity, health and well-being of our homebound customers. We currently serve eight municipalities throughout Mercer County, NJ, providing meals to individuals who are homebound due to age and/or medical illness. This includes individuals who fall on or below the Federal Poverty Level - currently representing the largest percentage of MOWMC participants served and whose meals are subsidized by our organization.

One of our largest fundraising efforts is our Direct Mail Campaign, which we have recently increased from three times a year to six times a year. This is our main method of communicating and appealing to donors. Every dollar raised from the funds raised via these campaigns goes to covering the cost of meals for our participants who cannot afford them. This unrestricted funding currently makes up over 57% of our annual budget. Without the generosity of our donors, we would not be able to say that we have no waitlist for providing meals, and would need to turn people away, and would we be able to subsidize the meals of 85% of those we serve who cannot afford the modest cost of a meal.

Every dollar we would save on postage for the direct mail campaign solicitations would be used to assist our organization in either the direct provision of meals, or in assisting necessary operations. Both of these areas impact our participants, homebound individuals in Mercer County, in receiving hot, nutritious meals. Increases in postage means we have less funds available to provide subsidies to individuals who cannot afford the meals on their own. In addition, we still communicate with our donors AND program participants via US mail. This is crucial to our daily operations and their well-being. The USPS is an extremely important pillar for us in our daily operations, as it is for so many Meals on Wheels programs across the country. I serve on the national Board of Meals on Wheels America, so I can say this with complete confidence. PLEASE do not raise the cost of postage as it will have a detrimental effect on our Meals on Wheels operations.

Sincerely,



Sasa Olessi Montaño

Chief Executive Officer

MEALS on WHEELS MERCER COUNTY